

## BEHIND THE COUNTER.

### Why Women Are There, Their Trials and Their Compensations.

The term shopgirl is not as harsh as cold type makes it appear. It came into use in England. In the United States the requirements of women helpers in business have elevated her to a high standard. Many of these helpers are far beyond the most liberal definition of the English classification.

With us the woman behind the counter is frequently qualified to acquit herself creditably in public society. The fact that she is in business does not necessarily mean that she is there by force of conditions. There is an independence in taking a position which is higher than that often sustained by luxury. The woman who supports herself or her mother or the whole family—and the latter is frequently the case—has already attained an enviable reputation. That the supply of women helpers exceeds the demand is proof of this statement.

Regardless of certain and many variations of weather—indeed, frequently regardless of her own physical condition—she must rise at a stated hour, make specified trains or cars and be at her post at a fixed time.

Regardless of the man on the floor who watches her time, regardless of the shopper who is too often impatient and sometimes unreasonable, the woman behind the counter must wear the pleasant face and have the agreeable manner. Must it be admitted that she is not infrequently the object of envy by one who is in the same business and who may stand beside her all day?

This woman behind the counter must be at her place while many of her sex are still at their toilet. If, indeed, they are not still in their morning slumber. She must see that the articles in her department are in attractive condition before the earliest shopper arrives.

Trying hours await. Up to the brief rest for luncheon she stands, although in many first class concerns this has been helped by arrangements for sitting when there is a lull in business. Besides the long standings, she must exert herself many times during the day by reaching up to shelves for boxes and replacing the same.

When the sale is made her part has not been played. Every article purchased by the shopper must be accurately put on the check. The price must appear, correct as the most minute item in a trial balance sheet, and the



HELPING TO MAKE A PURCHASE.

whole, where there are more purchases than one, be accurately footed. If change is to come back, she must see that it is exact to a penny, for never is there a shopper who does not watch out for correct change. Of course in this checking business and accurate accounting the woman behind the counter must be quick. Her mental calculations must work on the hair trigger plan.

When the shoppers' day is done and she turns her steps homeward, frequently later than she ought, the woman behind the counter is kept an extra half hour or longer in busy shopping seasons rearranging the tumbled heap before her, for the counter must be cleared for tomorrow before she turns her steps homeward.

The duties of the woman behind the counter are not confined to showing and selling goods. The shopper often has no idea of her own as to what she ought to have in trimmings or in certain shades or in quantity, for every shopper is not so fortunate as to have a dressmaker to furnish estimates. If the woman behind the counter cannot assist the shopper in these matters the shopper doesn't understand why, and she does her shopping elsewhere. If the exacting shopper who does this would keep silent and go elsewhere it would make no difference to the woman behind the counter. But the shopper in question is so constituted that she cannot leave the house without leaving a complaint. The woman behind the counter is the sufferer.

Any compensation for all this? Yes.

the half day off at certain seasons—the holidays, most of them observed in this day; then the anxiously awaited vacation in summer, and sometimes, though not often, a little journey for the house; often an encouraging word from the head for duties well done.

These trials and the occasional comforts come not only to the woman behind the counter, but to the stenographer and typist, for they are all in the same class. All are breadwinners, and, as said elsewhere, many go into the life because of its independence.

SHIRLEY BREESE

## PRESIDENT ASKED PROOF.

### THE HOUSE ASKS ROOSEVELT TO SUPPLY EVIDENCE OF CHARGES

Washington, Dec. 18.—The house of representatives yesterday, by unanimous vote, adopted a resolution requesting the president to supply it with any evidence that may be in his possession that will justify the statement in his last annual message, in relation to the attitude of members of congress toward appropriations for the secret service of the government.

Mr. Perkins, chairman of the special committee charged to investigate the allegations made in the president's message, and John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, both stated on the floor that it was the desire of the special committee to be just toward the president in allowing him to submit any evidence he may have, and both declared that the committee would give it full and impartial consideration.

### New Theater Begun.

New York, Dec. 5.—The cornerstone of the New theater, a home for the dramatic art of America, was laid this afternoon in the presence of an assemblage of authors, dramatists, city officials and other distinguished persons.

The ceremony of laying the cornerstone took place in the vestibule of the new building. In addition to an address by Mayor McClellan there were speeches by Augustus Thomas, the playwright, and President John H. Finley of the City college. Richard Watson Gilder read an ode composed for the occasion. Miss Geraldine Farrar sang, and a dedicatory chorus by Percy MacKaye was sung by a full chorus.

### Deadwood Dick

This Company, whose coming announcement appears in another column of this paper comes to our city highly recommended both by the press and public. The management have spared no pains or expense to make it one of the strongest dramatic companies on the road. The company numbers thirty people and they travel in their own private car and for the production of this drama, have some of the best actors that money can procure. They also carry all the electric, calcium and scenic effects necessary to produce the piece. A number of vaudeville artists will appear with those specialties between acts, thus giving a continuous performance lasting nearly three hours.

One of the principle features is Krutchfield's military band and concert orchestra which gives free concerts each day at noon. The show is new, clean, moral and up-to-date and no one should miss attending it. Tuesday night, January 5th.

### Seven Years of Proof

"I have had seven years of proof that Dr. King's New Discovery is the best medicine to take for coughs and colds and for every diseased condition of throat, chest or lungs," says W. V. Henry, of Panama, Mo. The world has had thirty-eight years of proof that Dr. King's New Discovery is the best remedy for coughs and colds, la grippe, asthma, hay fever, bronchitis, hemorrhage of the lungs, and the early stages of consumption. Its timely use always prevents the development of pneumonia. Sold under guarantee at Ed Greene's drug store. 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

Deadwood Dick, the drama that comes here Tuesday night, January 5, is not a Wild West show, but a good moral drama with comedy and pathos enough to make it instructive and interesting.

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—VIA—

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